682 assassin be returned to the victim's family. If he was not known,
628 however, the djema, or assembly of notables, designated a man
from the tribe to go make himself prisoner in his place. There is
[682] no example of the hostage's having been put to death in such a
[643] case. Serious cases were usually judged by the amenokal, who was aided by four assessors, two taken from each side.

762 /296/ Suicide. -- Suicide is as rare as murder among the
Tuareg. When one occurs, the person who committed suicide is
[746] abandoned on the ground unburied, and the camp is moved and abandoned forever. The Koran disapproves of suicide, and the Tuareg regard the suicide as if he had never existed and must never speak of him again.

Two crimes are blamed on the suicide: 1) doing away with oneself, which is not permitted for a human being who owes his life to God; 2) offending God in this way.

[775] The soul of a suicide cannot find refuge and wanders forever. It likes to return to the spot where it left its mortal covering, and people claim that they can hear it nearby in the evening and that it makes so much noise that it is impossible to sleep.

[761] Death. -- The Tuareg do not fear death. When one of them
763 sees that he is dying, he gathers his relatives around him and gives his last instructions. Then, according to the religious principles which he may have neglected during his life but which he recalls at the final moment, he pronounces the "Fatika /fatiha? Ed./" or
[29] if he does not have the strength for that, he raises the index finger of his right hand and breathes his last.

764 The body is immediately washed in lukewarm water and
[567] wrapped in a shroud into which aromatic herbs are put, while the slaves go to dig the grave on a neighboring high spot. The grave is made of a little trench with two stages such as the Arabs use.
[483 The body is carried on a kind of stretcher ans taken to the burial
417] place, head first, by four men. It is then placed on its right side with the face turned in the direction of Mecca,